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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 19, 2008. Claims 1-20 were pending. The Office Action indicated that claim 19 has been allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14 and 20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 5-7, 12, 13 and 18 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form, claims 2 and 11 have been amended to depend from claim 7, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 5, claims 15 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 18, and claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 19. Applicant submits that the claim amendments do not introduce new matter or new issues. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is requested. Claims 2-13 and 15-19 remain pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 5-7, 12, 13, 18 and 19 being in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 11, 14-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,121,170 to Bannai in view of Noguchi (JP 4-7236).

The Office Action also indicates that claims 5-10, 12, 13 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 14 and 20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 5-7, 12, 13 and 18 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form, claims 2 and 11 have been amended to depend from claim 7, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 5, claims 15 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 18, and claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 19.

Applicant submits that each of independent claims 5-7, 12, 13 and 18, claims 3 and 4 depending from claim 5, claims 2 and 8-11 depending from 7, claims 15 and 17 depending from

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claim 18 and claim 16 depending from allowed claim 19 is now allowable.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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